"Standing in the Need of Prayer"

Sunday, August 29, 2021, 10:30 a.m.
Whitneyville Bible Church, Alto, MI
Pastor Jonathan DeCou
2 Thessalonians 3:1-5

BIG IDEA: *Each* of us needs prayer just as much as *all* of us need prayer.

> *"…brothers and sisters,*
> *pray for us…"*
> *2 Thessalonians 3:1a (CSB)*

☞ **Paul seeks prayer for <u>spiritual</u> <u>protection</u>.** *(v1-3)*

- o **<u>Protection</u> for <u>himself</u>.** *(1-2)*
  - o **<u>Protection</u> for the <u>effect</u> of the <u>Word</u>.** *(v1a)*

  - o **<u>Protection</u> for the <u>exaltation</u> of the <u>Word</u>.** *(v1b)*

  - o **<u>Protection</u> from the <u>enemies</u> of the <u>Word</u>.** *(v2)*

- o **<u>Protection</u> for <u>others</u>.** *(v3)*
  - o **<u>Protection</u> by <u>God's</u> <u>faithfulness</u>.** *(v3)*

  - o **<u>Protection</u> from <u>Satan's</u> <u>attacks</u>.** *(v3)*

☞ **Paul seeks prayer for <u>spiritual</u> <u>commitment</u>.** *(v4-5)*

- o **For <u>commitment</u> to <u>Paul's</u> <u>instruction</u>.** *(v4)*

- o **For <u>commitment</u> to <u>God's</u> <u>devotion</u>.** *(v5a)*

- o **For <u>commitment</u> to <u>Christ's</u> <u>determination</u>.** *(v5b)*

READ: 2 Thessalonians 3:1-5

THINK: Reflect on these words to the Thessalonians, then ask yourself these questions: *Do you find it easy or difficult to ask for others to help you? What is one prayer you were taught to pray? Do you imagine the Apostle Paul being someone who stood in the need of prayer? Paul has already prayed for the Thessalonians twice in this letter (1:11-12 & 2:16-17), how does he want them to pray for him and his companions? What strikes you most about his prayer requests in these verses? Why does Paul have an urgency about the spread of God's Word? What does it mean for God's Word to be honored? Why do faithless people become adversaries of God's Word? How does God's faithfulness "strengthen and guard" us from Satan? Why does Paul have confidence in the Thessalonians? How does God's love inspire and motivate you? How does Christ's example of perseverance challenge you?*

DO: Seek out one other person you can pray for this week. Find someone currently serving in a ministry capacity and ask them how they stand in the need of prayer. Ask one other person to pray for you related to a specific concern you have right now.